

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00334 150633Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

OMB-01 OES-05 AF-06 MMO-04 EUR-12 CU-04 /109 W

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R 150454Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7277

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0334

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS

THE FIRST FORMAL CABINET MEETING OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT
SIGNALLED THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE SUMMER DOLDRUMS
FOR AUSTRALIA AS PRIME MINISTER FRASER BEGAN THE TASK OF
IMPLEMENTING HIS ELECTION PROGRAMS. VISITS BY THREE CODELS
FOCUSSED MUCH OF THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON THE INDIAN OCEAN,
DIEGO GARCIA AND THE FUTURE USE OF THE AUSTRALIAN NAVAL BASE
AT COCKBURN SOUND IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA BY U.S. NAVAL SHIPS.
ALMOST TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER TOPICS, THE CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATIONS PROMPTED COPY ON THE ROLE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN
AND THE AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE AMERICAN PRESENCE
THERE. HOWEVER, THE MEDIA STILL FOUND TIME FOR
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI,
PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND ANGOLA. INDONESIA IS STILL TAKING
ITS LUMPS FROM THE MEDIA OVER TIMOR, PARTICULARLY WITH THE
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PAGE 02 CANBER 00334 150633Z

REPORTS OF THE VISIT THERE BY INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

ADAM MALIK AND THE U.N. REPRESENTATIVE. INDONESIA'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT TWO AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS, BOTH OF WHOM REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON TIMOR, TO RE-ENTER INDONESIA, ADDED TO THE NEGATIVE PICTURE.

AN ISSUE OF SPORADIC ATTENTION BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS, SPARKED BY THE VISIT OF THE CODELS, WAS THE REPORTED APPOINTMENT OF JAMES HARGROVE AS THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. THE BULLETIN, AND COUNTRY'S LARGEST WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE, CARRIED A SCATHING COLUMN ACCUSING THE U.S. OF "INDIFFERENCE" TOWARD AUSTRALIA, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A POLITICAL AMBASSADOR TO REPLACE A CAREER DIPLOMAT.

PROGRAM:

IN SUCCESSIVE WAVES, THREE CODELS HIT AUSTRALIA WITHIN EIGHT DAYS AND GENERATED CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES, AND RESULTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A POLICY SHIFT ON THE PART OF THE GOA CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN, DIEGO GARCIA AND PERMISSION BY NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA. DIEGO GARCIA, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSE POSTURE BECAME A MAJOR ISSUE AS A RESULT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY CODEL HOLLINGS IN CANBERRA. THE GOA FOLLOWED UP WITH A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN POSITION BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED THE AVAILABILITY OF THE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA FOR U.S. WARSHIPS. SENATOR HOLLINGS ALSO GAVE EXCLUSIVE TV INTERVIEWS IN CANBERRA AND SYDNEY. CODEL ADDABBO HELD A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA, COVERING MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND AS DID THE SENATORS.

USIS MELBOURNE MARKED THE END OF THE YEAR WITH TWO SUCCESSFUL TV PLACEMENTS. ONE MELBOURNE STATION TELECAST 280 SEPARATE SIGMENTS FROM THE VISION USA SERIES IN A ONE-WEEK PERIOD, AND PLANS TO CONTINUE. NATIONAL NETWORK CH. SEVEN DEVOTED HALF OF ONE OF ITS HOUR-LONG PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALS TO THE FILM TINY WORLD, AND THE PRODUCER IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL FILMS.

USIS SYDNEY IS HARD AT IT WITH THE MEDIA ON BICENTENNIAL
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PAGE 03 CANBER 00334 150633Z

SPECIAL ISSUES. THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD IS SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM USIS WITH ARTWORK, COPY AND LAYOUT FOR ITS BICENTENNIAL EDITION. USIS PROVIDED PHOTOS WILL GRACE THREE SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLES MARKING THE BICENTENNIAL IN WOMEN'S WEEKLY, AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CIRCULATION MAGAZINE. THE AUTHOR IS KAY KEAVNEY WHO WAS IN THE U.S. LAST YEAR AND RECEIVED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM IEA.

EXHIBITION OF 30 PIECES CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN GLASS OPENED
IN FOYER OF CANBERRA THEATRE. PIENCES, MANY RECOGNIZABLE
FROM TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART 1972 "AMERICAN GLASS NOW" EXHIBIT,
HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY CRAFTS BOARD OF AUSTRALIA COUNCIL AND
WILL LATER BE PLACED ON PERMANENT LOAN IN VARIOUS COLLECTIONS
THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA. USIS CONTRIBUTED "AMERICAN GLASS NOW"
BOOKLETS TO SUPPLEMENT CRAFTS BOARD'S BACKGROUND MATERIAL.
RECENTLY RECEIVED 35MM TRANSPARENCIES OF PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES HAVE RESULTED STRONG EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION
MELBOURNE LOCAL TV NEWS CONTACTS. ANTICIPATE ADDITIONAL
UPDATES, PARTICULARLY NEW AMBASSADOR WHEN ANNOUNCED -
WILL BE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

NOW THAT FURORE OF GENERAL ELECTION OVER AND PROPOSED IV
GRANTEES RETURNING FROM HOLIDAYS, EXPECT BE ABLE SUBMIT
TRAVEL PLANS WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.
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